Production of aerotyres in Dunlop units

1082. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Ministries keen on early resumption of Dunlop units" in Business Line dated 7th February, 2002;

(b) whether Air Force has immediate requirement of aerotyres worth Rs. 100 crore as reported; and

(c) the action taken by Government to restart aerotyres production in Dunlop?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air Force has immediate requirement of aerotyres worth approximately Rs. 50 crores.

(c) The State Government of West Bengal has been requested to take steps to get the Dunlop factory restarted. Discussions are being held with trade unions, bankers and other related agencies in this regard.

Huge unspent amount from defence budget

1083. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Ministry has been able to spent only Rs. 6,000 crore out of the total budget of Rs. 19,959 crore for 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps the Ministry propose to take to spend its total budget for the ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the progress of Defence Expenditure and status of various procurement proposals is kept under constant review and follow up action as necessary is taken. A new procurement Organisation has been established to deal with acquisition on Capital account for the Defence Services.

Exhibition of defence supplies and equipments

1084. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the relevance of holding a public exhibition of international defence supplies and equipment; and

(b) whether such exposure of armaments and defenceware to all and sundry will alert our hostile neighbours of our interest in acquiring such military hardware?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Holding of International Defence Exhibitions is a world wide phenomenon. Such Exhibitions are being held not only in India but also in many other countries like Russia, UK, France, Malaysia, UAE, South Africa, Singapore, Brazil etc. Such international defence exhibitions provide a common platform for manufacturers, members of the Armed Forces, researchers and other decision makers to see assess the latest equipment and technological advances in various defence related fields at one place.

2. Such exhibitions provide an opportunity to the Indian Public Sector Defence Industry as well as private sector industry to interact with manufacturers from different countries and to discuss with them possibilities for sourcing of components, joint ventures and transfer of technology. It also provides opportunities to our public and private sector industries to showcase at one place their products and services for export orders.

3. Holding of such exhibitions and expression of interest in the exhibits in no way compromises national security interests.